REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. No claim amendments are presented, thus no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-6 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Levergood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780, hereinafter "Levergood") in view of "Ericsson Helps Speed Up Mobile Browsing" (InfoWorld article published May 31, 1999, hereinafter "Ericsson"); and Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Levergood and Ericsson and in further view of Wan (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,069).

The outstanding Official Action rejected Claims 1-6 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Levergood in view of Ericsson. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that Levergood fails to teach or suggest the claimed features for which it is asserted as a primary reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As summarized in the Response filed May 18, 2005, Claim 1 relates to an authentication server that executes user authentication between a mobile information terminal and a content providing server. In advance of authentication, unique identification information stored in the mobile information terminal is registered with a customer database of an authentication server. Then, the unique identification information is encrypted by a predetermined encryption algorithm and supplied from the mobile information terminal, via the network, and decoded by the authentication server. The server then determines whether the unique identification information decoded in the decoding step is registered with the customer database. After this determination is made, a notification is then sent to the content providing server to facilitate the start of services for the mobile information terminal.

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This method allows a user of a mobile information terminal, or mobile phone, to provide user authentication without the need to input additional information, for example a password and user name to be authenticated at a server.

It is respectfully submitted that the outstanding Official Action fails to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness, because neither Levergood nor Ericsson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed registering step, decoding step or determining step.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Levergood describes a process for controlling and monitoring access to network servers via client-server sessions over a network. Specifically, Levergood describes that a client request, without a session identification (SID), is sent from a web browser and directed to an access controlled file, and a content server subjects the client to an authorization routine prior to issuing the SID.[1] The content server initiates the authorization routine by redirecting the client request to an authentication server, which returns a response to interrogate the client and then issues a SID to a qualified client.[2] The authentication server then forwards a new request consisting of the original request appended with the appropriate SID to the content server, which then validates the SID and sends the requested document for display.[3]

Thus, the content server is required to perform an additional step of validating the SID which is appended to the request after authentication.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, user authentication method, comprising:

> ...determining whether the unique identification
> information decoded in the decoding step is registered with said
> customer database; and
> **sending a notification to said content providing server
> that starting of service provision for said mobile information
> terminal be permitted**, if the unique identification information
> is found registered with said customer database in said
> determining step.

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[1] Levergood, col. 3, lines 21-27.
[2] Id., col. 3, lines 28-32.
[3] Id., col. 3, lines 41-49.

Therefore, Claim 1 recites a step of authorizing the content providing server to begin service provision based on a received notification indicating that the unique identification information is was found to be registered with the customer database in the determining step.

In addressing the above-noted determining step, the outstanding Official Action cites col. 3, lines 29-32, and col. 6, lines 36-65 of Levergood. This cited portion of Levergood describes the authorization process performed by the authentication server, which may include a step of "challenging" the requesting client device for specific credentials. The authentication server is also able to access an account database to determine whether a user is authorized to request a specific document. Following this procedure, assuming authentication is successful, a SID is appended to the request and the request is redirected to the content server, as noted above.

However, Levergood fails to teach or suggest *sending a notification to said content providing server that starting of service provision for said mobile information terminal is permitted* based on the above-noted authentication and SID appending step. Instead, Levergood describes that the SID is appended to the request, and the content provider must then validate the SID before requested contents are transmitted to the client.

In addressing the sending a notification step, the outstanding Official Action cites, col. 3, lines 43-38 of Levergood, which describes that the content server receives the request with an appended SID, as discussed above. However, as described at col. 3, lines 33-38, the SID may include various user specific parameters (e.g., user identifier, expiration time, IP address of user computer, etc.) and is encrypted by an "unforgettable" digital signature. Thus, the SID does not include any information that provides *notification to said content providing server that starting of service provision for said mobile information terminal is permitted*. Instead, the appended SID must be validated by the content server before any information is transmitted to the client device.

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Further, it is possible for a user in <u>Levergood's</u> system to store a SID locally after registration and gain access to a controlled page without performing the authentication procedure whatsoever. As described at col. 5, line 42-col. 6, line 16 of <u>Levergood</u>, the content server is capable of validating a received SID without redirecting the request to the authentication server whatsoever. Col. 6, lines 5-16 of <u>Levergood</u> describes the three-step process performed by the content server to validate the appended SID, based on the contents of the SID. Therefore, the SID could not reasonable be interpreted as corresponding to a *notification sent to said content providing server that starting of service provision for said mobile information terminal is permitted*. Further, in the above-noted process authentication is not performed whatsoever, only SID validation, and the SID could not possibly be generated based on whether the unique identification information is found registered with said customer database in said determining step, as recited in Claim 1.

Further, as <u>Ericsson</u> is relied upon only to describe the ability of a mobile phone to connect over the internet to a server device, Applicant respectfully submits that <u>Ericsson</u> fails to teach or suggest any of the above-noted features recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. For substantially the same reasons as given with respect to Claim 1, it is also submitted that independent Claim 9 patentably defines over <u>Levergood</u> and/or <u>Ericsson</u>.

Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over <u>Levergood</u>, <u>Ericsson</u> and in further view of <u>Wan</u>. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, <u>Levergood</u>, neither alone nor in combination with <u>Ericsson</u>, teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in independent Claims 1 and 9. Likewise, <u>Wan</u> fails to remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references either alone or in combination, teach or suggest Applicant's Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 which include the above
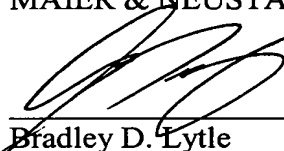
distinguished limitation by virtue of dependency. Therefore, the Official Action fails to

provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to any of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12

under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the

invention defined by Claims 1-12 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references.

The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an

early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
ATH:smi

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